



SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE
10.00 am, JUNE 22nd, 2007, MES, STIRLING

Present:	Malcolm Crosby	Chair, PCS
	Gordon Donaldson	PCS
	Gordon Kennedy	PCS
	Alastair Smyth	PCS
	Jim Lauder	PCS
	Hazel MacLean	PCS
	Edward Shephard	TUS
	Sinclair Coghill	PCS (by phone)

Minute Secretary: Peter Fullarton Secretary, PCS

Apologies:	Donald McNeill	Prospect
	Alastair Gillies	GMB
	Colin Watret	TGWU
	Steven Stables	PCS
	Jeff Dymond	TGWU
	James McDonald	GMB
	Robert Beaney	TUS

1. Introduction

Malcolm Crosby welcomed all to Stirling.

2. Apologies

As above.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed.

4. Matters Arising From Last Meeting

a. Conservancy Issues

No new topics.

5. Review of the Operations Review

a. PCS Conference Motion

A PCS N(S) branch motion at their group conference had requested that a questionnaire be circulated to gauge reactions to the Review of the Operations Review. It was felt that detail of questionnaire should be refined in conjunction with Kenny Hay who had initially proposed the motion. TUS would co-ordinate the survey and use surveymonkey.com

b. Review outcomes

NOC (S) had identified early on the need for two additional AAOM's. This had been achieved but one Ops area had been lost. Now, five areas would each have a PB3 AOM and 2 x PB4 AAOM's except for North and Grampian who would share one PB4 and Lochaber and Argyll which would remain as at present with one PB4. GD stressed that the Review was only about PB3's and PB4's – not PB5's or WSS's. He had hoped to get 3 extra posts but was reasonably satisfied with 2- albeit with one down from PB3 to PB4.

The negotiating position for the TUS at the 6th July Staff Council was discussed and it was agreed that the review be accepted. Ensuing post-filling was also discussed.

It was important to ensure full TU involvement in subsequent reviews. Gordon Donaldson would speak to FDM's regarding Forest District review.

c. AO Review

Malcolm said that TUS would want to be involved in any process that took place. Working examples were discussed eg Moray/Grampian. Jim Lauder said there seemed to be a net gain to Moray at least and that the Huntly office seemed to be coping well with the workload. Galloway also coping with Scottish Lowlands work though may be issues at Cowal & Trossachs if this is transferred to them.

6. On The Ground Initiative

(Sinclair Coghill joined the meeting by phone for this item)

Sinclair said that progress had seemed fine until an announcement earlier in the week but now there appeared to be much greater urgency from SEERAD to bind agencies together much tighter than previously intimated. This would indicate that a major joint approach from the various unions involved in the SEERAD family was necessary. Sinclair hoped that Edward would co-ordinate.

Edward replied that the unions- principally PCS and Prospect- were already involved but that the various full-time officers could be approached to organise a joint unions meeting.

Hazel MacLean said that she had attended a meeting earlier in the year to meet other 'family' members. A second meeting had been arranged for the 17th of June but this was cancelled due to the imminent announcement. In fact, the announcement meant that the meeting was more necessary. She added that Unison were also involved in SEERAD.

Hazel was worried that since the original time-scale had been reduced from 18 months to 12 months, then if changes not agreed within the agencies by then, then SE might impose changes.

Hazel was also concerned that the next scheduled joint meeting (with TU side earlier) was –at the end of August- too far away and that many decisions could be made, without consultation, before then.

Edward said that the level of risk varied between the various agencies. Many were less successful than FCS at delivery of objectives. FC TUS might need to initiate a meeting to be part of the discussions.

Options on how to proceed were discussed and the following action points agreed:-

- Sinclair Coghill- will liaise with Hazel re meetings with management and will be the NOC(S) nomination if a work group on the topic is proposed .
- Hazel MacLean- will try to quantify the potential work loss if grant inspections drop from 50% to 5%.
- Malcolm Crosby- To contact Albie O'Neill (ES to provide contact details).

Health and Safety Issues

a.Lymes' Disease

James MacDonald had asked Gordon Donaldson to voice concern about the increased incidence of Lymes' disease and that a reminder should be issued to staff.

ES said that the subject was already on the Departmental Staff Council agenda.

7. Any Other Urgent Business

Edward Shephard mentioned potential changes ahead for Chapelhall workshop due to an increase in unused capacity in MES. ES would be meeting with John Turnbull and the MES staff Council.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting at 10.00 on the 17th August. Venue to be confirmed.